



National Motor Vehicle Title Information System

Executive Summary

NMVTIS is a system that allows an electronic means to verify and exchange titling, brand, and theft data among motor vehicle administrators, law enforcement officials, prospective purchasers and insurance carriers.

State Participation

Currently, 30 states participate in NMVTIS (55% of the U.S. vehicle population is represented). States may participate in either of the following ways:

Batch

Batch states provide files of all active titles and brands to the NMVTIS Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) pointer and brand files. The state provides regular updates to the central files. Batch implementation is the critical first step toward online implementation.

Online

Online states have integrated NMVTIS online transactions into their titling systems.

Enabling Legislation for NMVTIS

The Anti Car Theft Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-519).

Car Theft is a Profitable Business - \$8 Billion per Year

Before NMVTIS, a thief could steal a car, then take it over the state line and get a valid title by presenting fraudulent ownership documentation. Or, the thief could steal a car, switch the VIN plate for one from a junked car, and get a valid title for the stolen car. These activities were possible because the states had no instant, reliable way of validating the information on the ownership documentation prior to issuing the new title.

Data Available

Data supported by this system and available to its users include:

- title data
- odometer data
- brand history data
- detailed vehicle data, theft data.

Fraud Affects the Economy and Consumer Safety

Vehicles that incur significant damage are considered “junk” or “salvage.” Fraud occurs when junk or salvage vehicles are presented for sale to consumers without disclosure of their real condition. The unknowing consumers pay more than the vehicle is worth, and they don’t know whether the vehicles have been adequately repaired, and may be unsafe to drive.

State titling agencies “brand” titles that are junk or salvage. However, some of these brands are lost when the paper titles travel from state to state – this is called title washing.

NMVTIS Reduces Titling of Stolen Cars and Reduces Fraud	<p>NMVTIS allows state titling agencies to verify the validity of ownership documents before they issue new titles. NMVTIS also checks to see if the vehicle is reported “stolen” – if so, the states don’t issue the new titles. Brands are not lost when the vehicle travels from state to state, because NMVTIS keeps a history of all brands ever applied by any state to the vehicle.</p> <p>See AAMVA’s web site for the full report on the pilot evaluation.</p> <p>A pilot of NMVTIS showed that NMVTIS could reduce the incidence of insurance payoffs on stolen vehicles by more than \$200 million per year. The pilot showed that NMVTIS could prevent title washing of about 60,000 brands per year.</p>
NMVTIS Benefits Everyone	<p>NMVTIS is a powerful tool that will allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state titling agencies to do their jobs to prevent fraudulent use of the title document by verifying the vehicle and title information, information on all brands ever applied to a vehicle, and information on whether the vehicle has been reported stolen – all prior to the titling jurisdiction issuing a new title. The VIN is checked against a national pointer file, which provides the last jurisdiction that issued a title on the vehicle and requests details of the vehicle from that jurisdiction. The details include the latest odometer reading for the vehicle. Verification of this data will allow for a reduction in the issuance of fraudulent titles and a reduction in odometer fraud. Once the inquiring jurisdiction receives the information, it can decide whether to issue a title; if so, NMVTIS notifies the last titling jurisdiction that another jurisdiction has issued a title. The old jurisdiction can then inactivate its title record. This will allow jurisdictions to identify and purge inactive titles on a regular basis. • law enforcement to create lists of vehicles, <i>by junk yard, salvage yard, or insurance carrier that</i> are reported as junk or salvage. The Act requires junk yards, salvage yards, and insurance carriers to report monthly to NMVTIS on all junk and salvage vehicles obtained. Law enforcement's inquiries will allow it to use NMVTIS to further its investigations of vehicle theft and fraud. • consumers to access information on the vehicle’s current title, including brands and odometer, prior to purchasing the vehicle. This allows the consumer to make a better-informed purchase.
NMVTIS Funding	<p>To support its implementation of NMVTIS, a state may take advantage of federal resources available through the U.S. DOJ’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding available through the Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Program may be used. For JAG state administering agency contacts, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/saa/. • onsite and remote technical assistance can be used by states to develop and improve connectivity with NMVTIS, and to improve technical business processes related to information sharing with NMVTIS. The cost of such technical assistance is covered by BJA and is provided by industry experts knowledgeable in information sharing processes and issues. For more information, please visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/tta/index.html.